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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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1941 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - INSULAR REGION

WHAT THE 1941 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM OFFERS
THE FARMERS OF PUERTO RICO

For five years the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, recognizing the need for soil conservation in Puerto Rico, has offered to assist farmers there in accomplishing this purpose. Each year a program has been drawn up providing payments to farmers who carry out recognized soil conserving and improving practices which can be performed in connection with their regular operations. As each program has been brought to a conclusion, experience gained thereby has been applied in formulating the succeeding program. In addition, the recommendations of farmers, through their organizations and agencies working with them, have been given consideration and followed out where practicable or permissible under the national Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

Carrying its agricultural conservation activity in Puerto Rico into its sixth year, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration sets forth herein a description of the assistance it is prepared to offer in 1941. It is based upon the Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin for the Insular Region approved by the Secretary of Agriculture March 13, 1941. As heretofore, payments will be made at stipulated rates for various practices which fall into six general groups as follows:

1. Planting crops that conserve and build up the soil. Planting legumes in rotation with other crops, plowing legumes under for improvement of the soil, and planting protective non-depleting cover crops on prepared land for use as livestock feed are included as desirable practices.
2. Conserving and improving grazing land. Land suitable for grazing may be improved by seeding, without preparation of the soil, to perennial grasses or legumes, by cutting down pasture-destroying plants, or by planting and maintaining shade trees.
3. Adopting cultivation practices that prevent erosion. Planting and cultivating crops along the contours of the land to reduce soil washing is encouraged. Tobacco producers are given special consideration because much of their land is located on steep slopes.
4. Controlling run-off water. Several measures may be taken to retard the flow of run-off water: construction of permanent or temporary ditches, lining ditches with sod, planting stiff-stemmed grasses along contour lines on slopes, constructing and maintaining catch pits, and establishing check dams in gullies where soil has been eroded.
5. Applying soil-improving materials. Stimulation of the growth of soil-conserving crops to increase their effectiveness may directly result from applying phosphate and potash to them and indirectly from applying

lime to soil on which they are to be grown in rotation or otherwise.

6. Establishing and maintaining forests. Woodland improvement contributes to the conservation of soil resources. In order to encourage it, these forestry practices are offered: planting windbreak trees, trees for the support and shade of vanilla, and trees for the establishment of forests; and maintaining wooded areas planted under previous agricultural conservation programs.

Other practices not classified here which are offered for the benefit of producers of coffee and pineapple are described on page 9.

PAYMENTS

Allowances. The program has been prepared in such a way as to use the funds available to obtain the maximum amount of conservation that would not otherwise be performed. With this consideration in mind, maximum allowances earnable on individual farms have been set.

In the case of cropland - that is, land which is tilled annually or in a regular rotation or is devoted to bearing or nonbearing orchards other than abandoned orchards - the maximum allowance is \$4.00 per acre for the first 10 acres and \$1.00 per acre for any additional acreage. Land on which sugarcane is growing is excluded from this computation by definition because of the separate program for sugar under the Sugar Act of 1937. Tobacco land, too, is excluded in view of the payments which may be earned by tobacco growers on the basis of tobacco acreage allotments.

In the case of grazing land, all pasture land included in the farm but not included in the cropland is considered in the computation of the maximum allowance. An allowance of 40 cents per acre is made on the first 1,000 acres and 10 cents per acre on any additional acreage.

The allowance for any farm determines the maximum payment that can be made for that farm. For example, the allowance on a farm with 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land would be \$42.00. If the amount earned for the practices carried out came to \$40.00, the farmer would receive \$40.00. On the other hand, if he carried out sufficient practices to earn \$50.00, his payment would be only \$42.00 - the largest allowable payment on a farm containing 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land. (In addition, the payment in either case would be increased in accordance with the schedule shown below.)

Maximum payment The maximum payment that will be made under any circumstances to any individual, partnership or estate with respect to farms or ranches located exclusively in Puerto Rico is \$10,000. If the agricultural operations of an association, corporation or trust are carried on elsewhere in the United States as well as in Puerto Rico, the total payment on all operations will not exceed the same figure.

Small payment increases. Payments of \$200.00 or less are scaled upwards according to provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act as follows:

Amount of payment computed	Increase in payment	Amount of payment computed	Increase in payment
\$1.00 to 1.99	\$0.40	\$32.00 to 32.99	\$10.40
2.00 to 2.99	0.80	33.00 to 33.99	10.60
3.00 to 3.99	1.20	34.00 to 34.99	10.80
4.00 to 4.99	1.60	35.00 to 35.99	11.00
5.00 to 5.99	2.00	36.00 to 36.99	11.20
6.00 to 6.99	2.40	37.00 to 37.99	11.40
7.00 to 7.99	2.80	38.00 to 38.99	11.60
8.00 to 8.99	3.20	39.00 to 39.99	11.80
9.00 to 9.99	3.60	40.00 to 40.99	12.00
10.00 to 10.99	4.00	41.00 to 41.99	12.10
11.00 to 11.99	4.40	42.00 to 42.99	12.20
12.00 to 12.99	4.80	43.00 to 43.99	12.30
13.00 to 13.99	5.20	44.00 to 44.99	12.40
14.00 to 14.99	5.60	45.00 to 45.99	12.50
15.00 to 15.99	6.00	46.00 to 46.99	12.60
16.00 to 16.99	6.40	47.00 to 47.99	12.70
17.00 to 17.99	6.80	48.00 to 48.99	12.80
18.00 to 18.99	7.20	49.00 to 49.99	12.90
19.00 to 19.99	7.60	50.00 to 50.99	13.00
20.00 to 20.99	8.00	51.00 to 51.99	13.10
21.00 to 21.99	8.20	52.00 to 52.99	13.20
22.00 to 22.99	8.40	53.00 to 53.99	13.30
23.00 to 23.99	8.60	54.00 to 54.99	13.40
24.00 to 24.99	8.80	55.00 to 55.99	13.50
25.00 to 25.99	9.00	56.00 to 56.99	13.60
26.00 to 26.99	9.20	57.00 to 57.99	13.70
27.00 to 27.99	9.40	58.00 to 58.99	13.80
28.00 to 28.99	9.60	59.00 to 59.99	13.90
29.00 to 29.99	9.80	60.00 to 185.99	14.00
30.00 to 30.99	10.00	186.00 to 199.99	(1)
31.00 to 31.99	10.20	200.00 and over	(2)

(1) Increase to \$200.00

(2) No increase

Rate changes. The rates of allowance and payment as set forth herein may be decreased or increased, as determined by the extent of participation in the program, by as much as 10 percent, or otherwise adjusted to remain within the limits of funds appropriated by Congress.

Application for payment. Any farmer who is participating in the 1941 program should submit a request for inspection through the nearest office of the Agricultural Extension Service before September 15, 1941. The San Juan

office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will make an effort to reach every farmer in Puerto Rico between October 1, 1941, and March 31, 1942, the final date for filing application for payment.

If an application for a farm is filed within the time prescribed, any producer on the farm who did not sign the application may subsequently apply for his share of the payment provided he does so before the expiration of the applicable appropriation.

In cases where supplemental or adjustment applications are necessary, they may be filed up to April 30, 1942, or, if a check is issued in payment of the original application or notice is given of ineligibility for payment under an original application, up to 30 days after the date of delivery of the check or the notice.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

In the following list, certain practices which are of sole interest to tobacco, coffee and pineapple growers are placed at the end. The other practices are not grouped entirely according to their applicability to pasture land or cropland, as there are many farmers who have an interest in both.

The rates of payment shown for any particular practice will be reduced 50 percent if a part equal to less than one-half of the total cost of carrying out the practice is borne by a Federal agency or an agency of Puerto Rico through the furnishing of labor, seed or other materials. If half or more of the expense of carrying out a practice is so borne by an agency of this kind, no payment at all will be made for it. These provisions do not apply to labor or materials supplied to Puerto Rico or one of its political subdivisions or agencies by an agency of Puerto Rico. Trees are not considered as materials for the purposes of this paragraph, full payment being offered where their use is involved regardless of their source.

All calculations involving land area will be made on the basis that one cuerda equals 0.97 acre.

PLANTING CROPS THAT CONSERVE AND BUILD UP THE SOIL

Practice No. 1. For planting protective nondepleting cover crops in rotation with other crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$2.00 per acre.

In order to qualify, a good stand of the cover crops grown in rotation must be secured and brought to the proper stage of maturity. Each acre on a farm can qualify only once during 1941 for payment under this practice.

Practice No. 2. For using protective nondepleting cover crops for green manuring, payment will be made at the rate of \$3.00 per acre.

Before the cover crop may be plowed under for green manure, a good

washing and gullyng of the soil. In no event will ditches with a slope of more than 4 percent be eligible for payment.

Practice No. 9. For constructing temporary ditching on fields of 6 percent or more average slope, with suitable outlets, for the diversion of surface water to prevent soil washing, payment will be made according to the type of land on which the ditching is constructed. The rate is \$1.00 for each 1,000 linear feet when the ditches are constructed on land where the topography, stoniness, or size of fields requires that the ditching be constructed entirely by hand labor; when constructed on other land, the rate is \$1.00 for each 2,000 linear feet of ditching.

Temporary ditching does not include any ditching primarily for the purpose of irrigation, sub-surface drainage, or under-drainage, or primarily for any purpose other than the prevention of soil washing.

Ditches must be constructed where they are needed to prevent soil washing and must be of sufficient number, depth and width, and of proper slope to provide adequate carrying capacity for surface water at a sufficiently low velocity to prevent washing or gullyng of the soil. In no event will ditches with a slope of more than 4 percent be eligible for payment.

Practice No. 10. For lining with sod permanent ditching constructed on land of 6 percent or more average slope, with suitable outlets, for the diversion of surface water to prevent soil washing, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 200 square feet of surface lined.

Credit will not be allowed for lining any temporary field ditches nor any ditches primarily for purposes of irrigation, sub-surface drainage, or under-drainage, or primarily for any purpose other than the prevention of soil washing.

In carrying out this practice, the bottom and sides of the ditches must be lined solidly with sod and the sides of the ditches sodded to such a height that the volume of water which may be expected after a heavy rainfall will not overflow the sodded surface.

Practice No. 11. For planting stiff-stemmed upright grasses on land of 10 percent or more slope along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines, payment will be made at the rate of \$2.00 per acre.

In planting, the slips of such grasses must be spaced not more than 12 inches apart within the row. The rows of grass must run along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from the contour; the vertical distance between rows must not exceed 6 feet; and free outlets must be provided for surplus water. Only such stiff-stemmed upright grasses as elephant grass, merker grass, or Guatemala grass may be used which, at maturing, will form a strong enough barrier to retain soil washed down by strong rains. It is to be noted that this practice is not applicable to land with a slope of less than 10 percent.

Practice No. 12. For constructing, and maintaining throughout 1941,

individual catch pits in connection with the planting of any crop other than coffee on land of more than 15 percent slope, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per 500 catch pits, with a maximum of \$3.00 an acre.

Catch pits constructed for this purpose should be not less than 2 feet wide, 2 feet long, and 12 inches deep, and must not be filled up with soil when the plant growing within the catch pit is being cultivated. If the size and slope of the fields so requires, properly laid out ditches not more than 50 feet apart with adequate outlets must be constructed to carry off any excess water. It is to be noted that this practice is not applicable to land with a slope of 15 percent or less.

Practice No. 13. For maintaining throughout 1941 individual catch pits constructed prior to 1941 in connection with the planting of any crop other than coffee on land of more than 15 percent slope, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per 750 catch pits, with a maximum of \$2.00 per acre.

To receive credit for maintaining throughout 1941 catch pits of this type, they must be cleaned out so far as the plant growing within the pit permits. The ditches and outlets also must be maintained free from any obstructions so as to permit a free flow of excess water.

Practice No. 14. For the construction and maintenance of check dams in gullies, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 10 linear feet of dams constructed.

Check dams must be securely constructed to prevent washing out and well anchored so that washing will not occur at the intersections with the sides of the gully. The upper edge of the dam shall be the basis for linear measurement.

APPLYING SOIL-IMPROVING MATERIALS

Practice No. 15. For applying ground limestone or its equivalent, payment will be made at the rate of \$3.00 per ton with a maximum of \$6.00 per acre.

Receipts or invoices showing the purchase of lime, properly dated and signed by the vendor, should be retained for presentation to the farm inspector at the time of inspection.

Practice No. 16. For applying 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash, or both, to protective nondepleting cover crops, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 100 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash applied, with a maximum of \$2.00 per acre.

Other suitable phosphate and potash materials will be paid for on the basis of the equivalent quantity of 20 percent superphosphate or 50 percent muriate of potash. Application of the fertilizer to the soil may be made to a growing crop or at the time of seeding a new crop.

It should be noted that no payment will be made for the use of fertilizer with any crop other than protective nondepleting cover crops nor for fertilizer elements other than phosphate and potash. Receipts or invoices showing the purchase of the fertilizer used, properly dated and signed by the vendor, should be retained for presentation to the farm inspector at the time of inspection.

ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING FORESTS

Practice No. 17. Planting land entirely to forest trees or windbreak trees or trees for the support and shade of vanilla, payment will be made at the rate of \$5.00 per acre of land on which the planting is done.

The trees must be planted on suitably prepared land, the varieties to be well adapted for forestation or the support and shade of vanilla plants under local conditions. At least 500 trees must be planted per acre unless a representative of the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration determines that a smaller number conforms to good farming practice in a particular instance.

Windbreak plantings must be made with suitable trees placed in areas where a windbreak is needed and spaced closely enough within the row, or rows, to form an adequate windbreak.

Full payment will be made even though seedling trees are obtained from a Territorial or Federal agency.

Practice No. 18. Maintaining, protecting and improving by replanting, if necessary, seedling trees on land planted to forest trees under prior Agricultural Conservation Programs, payment will be made at the rate of \$2.00 per acre.

Seedling trees planted prior to 1941 must be kept free of weeds and brush detrimental to their growth. If necessary, the whole area on which the trees are growing must be adequately fenced to provide protection from grazing animals. Any trees which might have died must be replanted in order to keep not less than 500 trees growing on each acre.

PRACTICES THAT APPLY EXCLUSIVELY TO COFFEE AND PINEAPPLE

Practice No. 19. For cultivating, protecting, improving and maintaining, by replanting of seedling trees if necessary, a good stand of shade trees planted in coffee groves prior to 1941, payment will be made at the rate of 50 cents per acre.

This practice requires the care of the standing trees by necessary pruning, the removal of old and decaying trees, the removal of excess trees where less shading of the coffee is advisable, as well as the replanting in the proper places of seedlings of such species of trees which, when mature, will provide adequate shade for the coffee trees.

Practice No. 20. For constructing and maintaining during 1941, individual terraces around or catch pits among coffee trees, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 200 terraces or catch pits.

Individual terraces constructed around coffee trees must include not less than 5 square feet of surface each and must be constructed so as to prevent soil washing.

Catch pits constructed among coffee trees must be not less than 3 feet in length and 8 inches in depth.

The construction of either terraces or catch pits on land of less than 2 percent slope will not be regarded as conforming to good farming practice.

Practice No. 21. For maintaining throughout 1941 individual terraces constructed around or catch pits constructed among coffee trees prior to 1941, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 500 terraces or catch pits maintained.

This practice requires the restoration and cleaning of all terraces and catch pits which have been partly destroyed or filled by soil washing.

Practice No. 22. For incorporating in the soil the entire residue of a pineapple crop, payment will be made at the rate of \$2.00 per acre.

All the old pineapple plants on the land must be pulled or turned out so as to be completely uprooted. The land must be subsequently plowed in such manner that all the plant beds are destroyed and any continuation of growth prevented.

TOBACCO

As under the 1940 Program, acreage allotments for tobacco will be established and payments will be made on the basis of these allotments. Also, deductions will be made from any soil-building or tobacco payment that otherwise would be made for farms on which tobacco is planted in excess of, or in the absence of, acreage allotments. The rates of payment and deduction in connection with these allotments will be established prior to September 1, 1941. A separate leaflet dealing with the tobacco program will be issued at that time.

GENERAL

Eligible applicants. Applications for payment with respect to a farm shall be made by the landlord, tenants and sharecroppers thereon, payment to be divided among them on the basis of the contribution made by each to the soil-building practices concerned.

Appeals. Should any person wish to question any decision of the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration as to his right to

a payment or the amount of his payment, he may request in writing a reconsideration of the decision within 15 days after notice thereof has been made available to him. Further appeal may subsequently be made to the Director, Division of Special Programs, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, if made within 15 days after receipt of notice of the decision on the first appeal.

Ineligibility. It is to be understood that no payment will be made to a person who takes any action tending to prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of the program. No application will be approved for payment, therefore, if the applicant has (1) adopted any practices which tend to defeat the purposes of the 1941 or previous agricultural conservation programs, (2) offset in any way the performance for which payment would otherwise be authorized, or (3) adopted any practice found to be contrary to sound conservation practice with respect to forest land or woodland owned or controlled by him. Additional information in connection with practices which tend to defeat the purposes of the 1941 program may be obtained by consulting the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, or any Agricultural Extension Service office.

Assignments. Any person who may be entitled to a payment under the 1941 program may assign his interest in the payment as security for cash loaned or advances made for the purposes of financing the making of a crop in 1941. No assignment will be recognized, however, unless it is made in writing on Form ACP-69 in accordance with instructions (ACP-70-Insular) issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. These forms may be obtained from any office of the Agricultural Extension Service or from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at the address given below.

Inquiries. Inquiries concerning this program may be directed to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, P. O. Box 2672, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Issued March 18, 1941, with the approval of the Administrator.

H. B. Boyd
Director, Division of
Special Programs.

